

Application Serial No.: 09/670,520
Amendment dated October 14, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 13, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 10, 12-18, 20 and 22 are pending in the present application. No claims have been added, amended or canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the amendment filed March 14, 2003 was objected to; Claims 1-4, 7, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and Claims 13-18, 20 and 22 were allowed.

Regarding the objection to the amendment filed March 14, 2003, the outstanding Office Action indicates the amendment introduces new matter into the disclosure because the added limitation of using H₂O as an oxidizer recited in the amended claims is not disclosed in the original specification.

However, as explained in the previous response filed on July 11, 2003, this feature is supported in the specification at least at page 31, lines 4-9, which recites that in the fourth embodiment, a case where the post oxidation film 19 is formed by use of an oxyhydrogen combustion method using external combustion equipment or vaporizer method using H₂O as an oxidizer. Thus, the amendment to the claims does not add new matter.

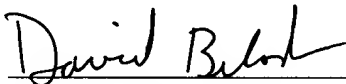
Similar arguments apply to the rejection of Claims 1-4, 7, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Application Serial No.: 09/670,520
Amendment dated October 14, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 13, 2003

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
David A. Bilodeau
Registration No. 42,325

Customer Number
22850

I:\ATTY\DAB\197802US-RR.DOC